

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of September 20, 2004**

1. **Reminder (All Wards):** The PSCAC-sponsored family picnic is Sat., Sept. 25 at the VFW; goal to recruit additional Neighborhood Safety Contacts. A follow-up meeting on safety issues in the Old Takoma neighborhood is planned for Thurs., Sept. 30, 7 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church, Maple & Tulip, in the Assembly Hall. (*Police*)
2. **Safe Roadways Committee:** The first meeting of the Safe Roadways Committee will take place on September 30 at 7 PM in the Municipal Building conference room. There are still three vacancies on the committee. (*Housing and Community Development*)
3. **Purple Line Meeting (All Wards):** The Montgomery County Planning Board is inviting public comment on possible alignments of the proposed Purple Line (Bi-County Transitway) at their meeting on Thursday, Sept. 30 at approximately 1:45 pm. To sign up to speak, call 301-495-4600 or e-mail comments to mcp-chairman@mncppc-mc.org. Park and Planning staff are looking at two routes near Takoma Park, a Sligo Ave/Piney Branch/University route and a Wayne Ave/Arliss/Piney Branch/University route. The State is still considering an underground route through Takoma Park from the Silver Spring Transit Station to Takoma/Langley with no Long Branch station. Check www.PurpleLine.org for more information. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
4. **Gateway and Wayfinding Signage Program:** The community forum for the Gateway and Wayfinding program is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 26 at 7 PM. This will be the best way for residents to provide input into the design and programming of the sign system. The forum will take place in the Montgomery College student lounge which is located in the Commons Building at New York and Takoma Avenues. There will also be presentations of the proposed signage system at City Council meetings later this year. Additional information will be posted on the City website. Any questions can be directed to Rob Inerfeld at 301-891-7219 or RobertI@takomagov.org. (*Housing and Community Development*)
5. **Auto Theft Deterrence (Wards 1, 2, 5, & 6) :** In recognition of October as Crime Prevention Month, the COP Team is sponsoring a city-wide campaign, "Don't Gamble With Your Car." The first element will be bringing the Maryland Hot Car to several sites next weekend. The car demonstrates all anti-theft methods. Sector Specialists will staff the car on the following schedule: Sat., Oct. 2 at the Hampshire Towers Apartments, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and Takoma/Langley Crossroads Shopping Center, 2 - 4 p.m., (Ward 6 & 2); Sun. Oct. 3, Old Town Street Festival, 10 am - 4 pm (Ward 1); and Mon., Oct. 4 at the Washington Adventist Hospital, 3-5 p.m. (Ward 5 & 2) and the 7500-7700 blocks of Maple Avenue, 5:30 - 8 p.m. (*Police*)
6. **Thomas-Siegler Garden (Ward 1):** Chief Creamer met on site with residents and staff regarding safety at the Seigler Garden and on parking issues on Boston Avenue. She met with Montgomery College Security officials as well. (*Police*)

7. **Affordable Housing (Ward 5):** As previously reported, the residents of 8508-10 Flower Avenue expressed an interest in purchasing the rental facility when it initially went up for sale in April 2004. The price at that time was \$780,000 and the owner had entered into a contract with a third party. Although a couple of non-profit organizations had expressed interest in working with the tenants to acquire the building, they have indicated that they were unable to proceed with the project because of the high cost to purchase and rehab the property. The owner has since entered into another contract (the original contract was canceled.) The selling price is now \$1,300,000. There are 20 units in the building. (*Housing and Community Development*)

8. **Relocation of District Court:** District Court, where many landlord-tenant cases regarding non-payment of rent are heard, has moved to its new building at 8552 Second Ave. in Silver Spring. The new phone number is (301) 563-8500. (*Housing and Community Development*)

9. **Crime Report (Ward 1):** A robbery occurred Thurs., about 8:30 p.m. in the 7000 block of Carroll Avenue. The suspect entered a business, implied a weapon, and took property from a register and a customer. A K-9 track in a nearby residential neighborhood provided negative results. Investigation continues. (*Police*)

10. **National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) Award:** On September 18, 2004, Takoma Park City TV received an award at the annual Government Programming Awards ceremony of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) held in San Francisco. The award is for the production of Jazz Band Brawl 2004: The Lovejoy Group in the Performing Arts category for channels with budgets under \$300,000. The annual NATOA Government Programming Awards competition recognizes excellence in television, multimedia and electronic programming developed by local government entities. Programs are judged on content, creative elements, technical quality and overall quality. This recognition of City TV's work by its local government peers is exciting acknowledgment of the growing professionalism of the channel. It is also fitting that the award was received for a production of a Jazz Band Brawl performance, as the Jazz Band Brawl and associated Takoma Jazz Fest are fantastic examples of the terrific efforts of resident volunteers to bring music to our community. City TV has earned national recognition previously, when the Alliance for Community Media presented it with an award for Overall Excellence at its Hometown Video Festival in 2002. City TV also received an award at the NATOA 2003 Government Programming Awards, also for a Jazz Band Brawl performance. (*City TV*)

11. **Officers in Training:** Eight officers attended four-hour NCIC recertification classes. Ten officers received training in the less lethal launcher. (*Police*)

12. **Uniform Patches:** All officers and uniformed civilians have been issued a newly designed police patch, which will be required as of Oct. 15. The patch, which incorporates the flags of the U.S., state, county and city, was designed and selected by officers. It replaces the patch used for the almost 30 years. For security reasons, the

Department no longer trades patches to anyone other than known and documented law enforcement officials. (*Police*)

13. **Film Festival:** The Takoma Park Film Festival returns November 7, 11, 13 and 14 with an exciting array of films by professional film makers, students and adults. This year's festival will be held in the historic Takoma Theater at 6833 4th Street N.W. in Takoma D.C. The event is cosponsored by the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Columbia Union College and the Takoma Theatre Arts Project, with support from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. More detailed information will be available in the next City Newsletter. (*Library*)